



southern california dx club

August 2004



In this issue the editor tells the tail of a visit to a club member that has been a consistent "GUN" on the bands for many years. Recently he celebrated the 50th anniversary of having received his novice license. He was just a kid then (12 years old) and he still prides himself on being a kid.

Look within and read the story of our visit to the shack belonging to W8DX.

Soap Box— Words from our President



Not much doing at our QTH. With the move, ARRL activities and just "lazin" in the sun (HOT!) the summer is going by. Carl and I hope to see everyone at Wayne's QTH on the 8th. 73 and 88
Cathy

INTERESTING INDEED!

The editor received this correspondence the other day

Once again David, KY1V (the 2004 Radio Amateur of the Year), is putting together the team of operators for the 2004 CQWW Phone contest operating from VP5X. They have started soliciting essays from young hams around the world under the age of 21 to apply to join us for an expenses paid DXpedition to North Caicos Island.

Young hams worldwide can apply for the Young Ham Contest Program by sending a 500+ word essay describing how he/she got started in ham radio, naming his/her Elmer (mentor), and telling why he/she should be >selected this years CQWW Phone contest operation. One winner will be selected from the many world-wide entries to join the VP5X team.

The submission deadline is August 31st. If you are a young ham that would enjoy an expense paid trip to VP5, please submit your essay NOW.

For more information on VP5X and how to submit your essay, please visit the VP5X website at <http://www.vp5x.com>.

de the Veep

Can you believe it is August already? Before you know it we will be staying up late and getting up in the middle of the night to work 75/80m again. Not only is the year flying by but we also got the news this week that we will actually have a DXpedition headed for one of DX Magazine's top 10. An international group is headed for no. 10 on the list YV0, Aves Island and the best part they



will have a stateside QSL manager. This should give us something to work at the end of July and in to August.

I'm sure we will be listening to the deserving (names withheld) telling us about how many bands and modes they worked YV0 on at the Summer Bash, which will be coming up August 8th at W6IRD's QTH in Orange. Complete information, map etc. can be found on the web at www.scdxc.org. Judging from my e-mail, we will have another large crowd and a good time should be had by all.

Linda and I enjoyed having Elvin, JA3CZY spend a few days with us in July and look forward to his returning in September. Elvin is working on his pilots license and will be going to ground school so he will be here for a couple of months and a couple of meetings. Maybe we will hear JA3CZY/W6/AM on the local repeater sometime in the future.

As some of you know I like to plan ahead, so I'm starting my search now for a new club secretary. If you would be interested in being the secretary next year please let me know. It is really a fairly easy job and if you think the club meetings are fun you have just got to see what happens at a board meeting.

Next General Meeting

The SCDXC meets the second Thursday of the month. Our next meeting will be held August 12, 2004 at Syd Kronenthal Park in Culver City. The park is located 4 blocks west of La Cienega Blvd. and 2 blocks south of Washington Blvd. From the 10 Freeway exit La Cienega south to Washington Blvd. Turn right (west) 4 blocks to McManus Ave (it's La Cienega Ave to the right, McManus to the left). Turn left (south) 2 blocks to the Park. The street dead-ends at the parking lot. Please do not park in the school lot.

Jim, N6DHz will present some slides and a few interesting facts and figures on the transmitter/antenna of KFI

See ya there!

Speaking of planning ahead it is time for you to start cleaning out the shack, garage, storage shed etc. as September will be our annual "Anchors Away" auction. Be sure to bring some really old dirty and unusual stuff for Sharon, W6IRD-XYL to bid on, Wayne always appreciates her keen eye for a bargain at the auction. So load the trunk or the pickup and head out to the meeting and make a few green stamps to offset your QSL costs.

You do QSL don't you? Remember September 30 is the annual deadline for DXCC submissions for the 2005 yearbook. I just checked my "Logbook of the World" (LoTW) and I have 41 new band fillers sitting there ready to be applied to my totals. If you have not signed up for LoTW or have not looked at it lately you should. You can now get your totals online and apply your LoTW confirmations for credit to your DXCC's. I still QSL virtually every contact but I really like the LoTW and how easy it makes updating your totals. I would urge everyone to give LoTW a try.

The August meeting will feature a program from one of the truly great DXers in the club and an all around good guy. Jim, N6DHz will present some slides and a few interesting facts and figures on the transmitter/antenna of KFI. Jim went on a tour recently, along with several other club members to the KFI transmitter site in Buena Park. Does anyone know how tall that antenna is? K6YUI you are not eligible to answer. Jim will also have a special surprise display that (most of) you have never seen anything like before.

I hope to see everyone at the Summer Bash and the meeting.

73 DE Jim, N6DHz

BPL Stuff

WASHINGTON--As Democrats were toasting John Kerry in Boston, here in the nation's capital President Bush's top technology advisers were touting their boss' broadband accomplishments. (CNET News)

And —

Did you know it is now law that right-of-way must be provided to broadband lines and communications towers, for the purpose of rolling out broadband access. One of the political parties wants to subsidize (even more!) broadband providers to deliver services in rural areas. It IS coming. What can we do to protect ourselves? Any ideas?

Bubbas Spot



Hello to all. It's been a fun month at Bubbas. Elvin, JA3CZY, came from Osaka for another visit and stayed with us. He rented his own car and was able to have the freedom to go where he wanted when he wanted. He visited some friends and investigated flying schools all over the Southland. He also flew to San Jose for a look at some more schools and a lunch with some friends. I think he could go anywhere in the United States and meet friends he has talked to on the radio. Elvin returned to L.A. in time to be the guest speaker at our club meeting. He had a slide show that was interesting. He kept his presentation a secret from me, so I really enjoyed seeing it for the first time. We meet at the famous La Habra Heights cafe near my shop. We had 14 people for dinner. Bob, N6OX, brought Carl, AG6X, up from San Clemente. That's a long drive and we enjoyed seeing you both. Thank you Elvin for a look at amateur radio in Japan. Jim, N6DHz did another outstanding job with the raffle. The table was full of nifty things. Mel, K6SY was the first ticket pulled and he made a beeline to the emergency crank powered radio. That left a nice Heil GoldlinePro microphone for the next ticket.....ME! Thanks Mel. Congrats to all the other lucky winners. I look forward to seeing y'all at the Summer Bash at Sharon's house (IRDs too). Til then? Bubbas say "see you soon"

SOUTHWESTERN DIVISION CONVENTION

“BEST IN THE WEST”

August 27-29, 2004
Wild Horse Pass Resort
Phoenix, AZ

<http://www.hamradio2004.com/swdc2004/>

Propagation August 2004

by Shel, W6EL

These predictions for the five prime HF bands show the times when propagation is expected to be best from Los Angeles to several locations that are expected to be active during the coming month.



Other times are possible, but with weaker signals or lower probability. Openings are not expected on bands that are not listed. A solar flux of 140, corresponding to a sunspot number of 98, and an average geomagnetic field are assumed. Sunrise/sunset times are at the DX location. All times are UTC.

Good luck and good DX from Shel, W6EL.

3DA Swaziland - 8/7 to 8/11 -
Beam 83 degrees
Sunrise/sunset (on 8/9) 0432/1528
40: 0300-0430.
20: 0100-0230 and 0500-0600.
Long path 1330-1500.

YJ Vanuatu - 8/6 to 8/15 -
Beam 246 degrees
Sunrise/sunset (on 8/11) 1912/0634
80: 0900-1230.
40: 0730-1300.
20: 0500-1530.
15: 0200-0930 and 1830-1900.
10: 1930-0600.

C9 Mozambique - 8/12 to 8/17 -
Beam 73 degrees
Sunrise/sunset (on 8/15) 0412/1524
40: 0300-0400.
20: 0100-0230 and 0430-0530.
Long path 1230-1600.
15: 2000-2130 and around 0530.

PJ Netherlands Antilles - 8/11 to 8/24 -
Beam 103 degrees
Sunrise/sunset (on 8/18) 1027/2250
80: 0430-0930.
40: 0230-1030.
20: 0000-0900 and 1030-1230.
15: 1400-0500.

GM Scotland - 8/22 to 8/25 -
Beam 32 degrees
Sunrise/sunset (on 8/24) 0511/1926
80: Around 0400.
40: 0230-0600.
20: 2330-0200 and 0630-0800.
15: 1700-2100.

S7 Seychelles - 8/16 to 8/31 -
Beam 12 degrees
Sunrise/sunset (on 8/24) 0224/1417
20: 0100-0200.
Long path 1300-1430 and 0230-0330.
15: 1630-2330 and 0300-0430.

OY Faroe Islands - 8/30 to 9/9 -
Beam 28 degrees
Sunrise/sunset (on 9/4) 0534/1920
40: 0230-0600.
20: 2230-0100.

ARTICLES NEEDED FOR NEWSLETTER

Send us your favorite stories—handi hints—QSLs, etc
How about that big score you made in the contest?
How did you do it?
Were you involved in the wildfire communications?
What are your thoughts re: BPL?

We want to print your stuff.

W8JK — SK

Radio astronomer, antenna designer, cosmic explorer and author John D. Kraus, W8JK, of Delaware, Ohio, died July 18. He was 94. Kraus is perhaps best known in Amateur Radio circles for his bi-directional wire beam antenna—often dubbed the '8JK array. Other important Kraus designs include the corner reflector and helix antennas. He was a pioneer of radio telescope design and the father of the "Big Ear" radio telescope.

Kraus's classic textbook Antennas has been an engineering school staple for decades and can be found in virtually every antenna engineer's library.

FD with the Boy Scouts de W6QE



For Field day this year, I operated with the Inland Empire Amateur Radio Club, W6IER, at the California Speedway in Fontana. Through the years I've noticed that every ham club is different in the way they set up and assign duties for Field Day. This club is no different. If you care to participate, you

choose a band, or mode and sign up as the "Station Manager". In turn, you are responsible for every aspect of that station. From radio's, coax, extension cords, laptop, power supplies table, chairs and right down to the hand tools you will use and where you will sleep. The club does own a nice generator.

Having a very close and dear friend who just got licensed, KG6UPL, Mike, made things easier. Mike and I decided to put forth an effort to be the "Station Managers" for the VHF/UHF. We chose this set of frequency's so that Mike with his new Technician license could feel what it was like to be on the air making contacts and what it takes to get to that point on his 1st Field Day.

The W6IER Club had a walk through at the Speedway a month prior to FD so we could get a look at where we were to operate from. At 1st, that huge monolith of steel and concrete was intimidating. But after walking around, taking the elevator to the top of the grandstand, idea's started coming together.

For antenna's we chose to home brew square loops, or "squalor's" as they're called. Making these antenna's was simple compared to the questions that were asked by a new ham as we made them. Hi. We used a stack of 2 on 2 meters, and stack of 2 on 70cm and a single loop on 6 meters. We filled a 5 gallon bucket up with concrete and inserted a 3' piece of TV mast into the wet concrete. After mounting our stack to the 7' piece left over, and adding an additional 10" section to the middle we were ready. I used my GPS unit to measure the elevation at the ground beneath the bleachers and then took a reading at the top of the bleachers. We were 115' AGL, putting the stack at 135', $\ddot{y}$ (+/- the accuracy of the GPS)!



Radio wise, I brought my Icom IC-910H for 2 meters & 70cm and Mike brought his brand new eBay Yaesu FT-847 for 6 meters. Feed line presented no problem that we couldn't buy our way out of. 130' of RG-213 fed the 6 meter station, and by using a duplexer at the rear of my Icom turned 1 way, and a duplexer at the base of the stacks turned the other way, all we needed was 1 run of double shielded 9913 for 2 meters and 70cm, again, 135' long. I'm sure that we had coaxial loss that would be unacceptable under any other circumstances. What I'm remembering right now is that we were both sort of intoxicated with the idea of running stacks of anything at 135' AGL. Hi Hi! Our operating position was under the grandstands, right below the antenna's on a mezzanine level about equal to the 2nd floor. It was shaded and had a constant breeze blowing through.

Operating: After FD started and an initial flurry on 2 meters and 70cm, we settled down to operating on 6 meters. The band was open most of the contest! We made over 210 contacts total, mixed modes, which isn't bad for a combination social and operating event. The purpose was multifold: Operate Field day, and get a new ham to put a mic in his hand and call CQ.

The W6IER club is lucky to have a Boy Scout Troop leader among it's members, so the Scouts were in attendance and did all the cooking/cleaning for the entire event! Of course the club bought the groceries.

The weekend went by much too fast but was a rip-roaring success. Plans for next year? The same, except a stack for 6 meters too.

Milt, W6QE

This Isn't in the Handbook

(An unorthodox use for coaxial cable)

By Paul Stevenson AD6PC

Most of us use coaxial cable as transmission lines. Your cable TV company uses it to feed television programming and connect your house to the Internet. Apparently they consider anything less than one hundred feet as scrap. At Adelphia Cable, where I work as an intern in TV Production, I noticed a trash bin full of discarded coax. I was told to help myself and took home about eighty feet or so of new cable. (I was hoping to find some discarded hardline.) No doubt it was 75 ohm cable. I wasn't in the mood to wind a lot of baluns to match it up to my 50 ohm transceiver, antenna, tuner/SWR bridge, etc. Next, I discovered that the center conductor was copper clad aluminum. The jacket wouldn't take solder. It probably requires a special coax connector that I don't have or can't get. I doubt that it would handle 100 Watts of RF to say nothing of a kilowatt. Did I mention it was free? (I had in mind building an "Black Snake" on the ground beverage antenna as described in ON4UN's Low Band Dxing. A city block in Santa Monica is considerably shorter than a full wavelength on 40 80 or 160.)

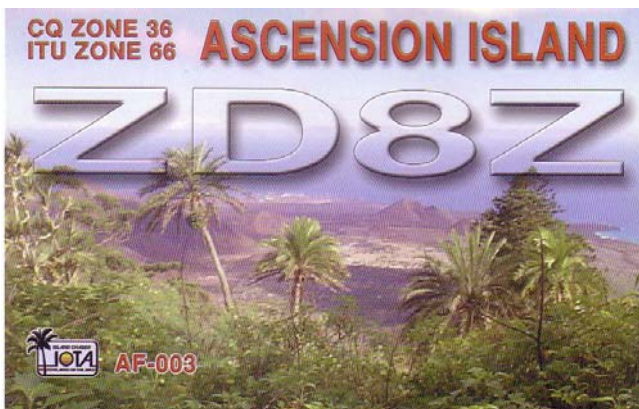
I live in a condo where installing 120 radials for a vertical is impossible. 120 radials may be good broadcast engineering practice, but most of us don't have the budget that AM broadcast stations have, and broadcasting boring talk shows twenty four / seven isn't high on my list of priorities. (Ah! For the good old days when AM radio broadcast music. Hank Williams, Elvis, John, Paul, George, and Ringo, etc.)

My antenna is a Hustler mobile whip mounted to sixteen feet of aluminum tubing. The tubing is tied to a ground rod in my neighbor's flower bed. My theory is that at 20 Meters and up the aluminum mast acts as a counterpoise so the antenna works like a half wave and I can get by without radials. Does 72 countries in the log sound like it works? I used this antenna on 160 Meters with an eight foot length of aluminum rod tied to the RM-80 resonator with a pair of hose clamps. It loaded up on 160 and up although the setting of the antenna tuner is critical and requires retun-

ing every time I change frequencies. Who knows what the angle of radiation is? I did manage to get on 160 Meters and make a few contacts in the 2002 ARRL 160 Meter contest I even got a QSL card from a ham in Northern California on 160. I tried the stinger with resonators for 40 and 80 but the results were inconclusive. The inescapable fact is this set up doesn't work well below 20 Meters. What to do about that?

Years ago Stew Perry, W1BB, described a inverted L antenna for 160 meters. He commented that the more radials, ground rods, and buried metal objects you could add to the ground system the better. I can't bury anything but there is a two foot high crawl space under the patio where my antenna resides. H.F Packers use quarter wave trailing wires as a counterpoise on their man-portable antennas. With this in mind I attached a sixteen foot length of #16 wire to the base of my antenna to see if it would improve my antennas performance on 160 for the 2003 ARRL 160 Meter contest. Yes, 130 feet would make more sense, but I only had sixteen feet.

Now I had a quarter wave counterpoise for 40 Meters. I did bag two new states on 160, but no DX. Apparently the improvement on 40 Meters was substantial. In the RTTY Round Up I could work east coast stations on 40 Meters. I never accomplished this before. In the 2004 ARRL DX CW Contest I worked Japan, Hawaii, PJ2T, and ZD8Z on 40M. (I couldn't work ZD8Z on 20 earlier that day.) I wondered what I could do on 80 Meters if I had a quarter wave counterpoise on that band. I took fifty feet of my free cable TV coax, shorted the ends, crimped one



end into a lug, clamped it to the base of my antenna and ran the rest underneath my patio. The sixteen foot mast plus the fifty foot length of coax added up to sixty six feet, a quarter wave length on 80 Meters. I shorted the ends as I wanted the counterpoise to act like a long thick cable and not a long thin capacitor. My antenna loaded up much easier on 80 Meters.

In the 2004 ARRL Phone DX Contest I worked Alaska, Hawaii (KH7X), PJ2T, and France on 40 Meters. This was the first time I'd worked across the Atlantic on any band below 20 Meters. With my Icom 706 set up for split on 40, I tuned my old Kenwood TS820s for operation on 80 Meters. I heard KH7X on 80 Meters whom I'd just worked on 40 so I called. He came back with 59 report. I never got off the continent on 80 Meters before. The following evening I worked KL1V in Alaska, and to my surprise, PJ2T in the Caribbean. All this with a thirty year old radio with aged transmitting tubes. (They're still S2001's, they may be the originals.) Some time later the DX Cluster showed KH7X on 1.866 MHz. Not expecting to even hear anyone on Top Band I neglected to put my eight foot stinger. Still, I switched the 706 to Top Band to see if I could hear KH7X. He was weak but I could

copy him. I called him but got no response. My SWR reading approached the equivalent of our national budget deficit. Now, what would happen if I added another eighty feet of coax to make that coax counterpoise a quarter wave on 160? Incidentally: if working Ascension Island on 40 Meters with 100 Watts and an eight for mobile antenna sounds like a UFO sighting, be advised, I received the QSL card a few weeks ago. The result: four new countries on 40 Meters, three more on 80, and some incentive to brew up a better antenna for 160.

TNX to the late Stew Perry, W1BB, and John Belvedere, ON4UN for their inspiration.

TOP GUNS

Congratulations to the club members who have been noted in August 2004 QST for their Top of the DXCC Honor Roll listing.

The numbers below indicate their all time totals including deleted entities vs. the current (active) total of 335 which defines the HR Top.

<u>Member</u>	<u>Mixed</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>CW</u>
JA1BK	374	373	345
K2PLF	346		
K5KT	346		
K6EXO	368		
K6GXO	347	346	
K6YRA	369	368	
N6UC	360		
OH2BH	369		
W6AUG	342		
W6EL	373	371	
W6RJ	372		
W6SR	350		
W6ZZ	363		
WA6TLA	351	343	345 *
WA6WZO	349	349	
WB6RSE	347	345	345 *

- 334 Current - Missing only P5

Tnx to Steve, WB6RSE



We visit the shack of

We visit the shack of
W8DX

What is it that encourages an otherwise “normal” kid to become a HAM? In my search for an answer I visited the shack of a local DXer who holds 5 Band DXCC, both phone and CW, and, at one time, had been the President of the Southern Cal DX Club. He has just celebrated 50 years as a Ham (July 29th). He was hard to find. No antenna farm could be seen from the street. You had to go up a brick path/driveway/alley to a small plateau (will I ever be able to turn my van around?). A pleasant looking house and, when the door opened, a warm smile with an offer of a cold beverage. “Hi Harv!” he said. “Hi Harvey” I said and a nice visit commenced. Harvey introduced me to a great dog – her name is Rosie and she is studying to be the second op at W8DX. We settled down and just gabbed for the rest of the afternoon.

Harvey is a multi-talented guy. Just check out his webpage (www.outadaloop.com) and you will see how diverse he is. His professional career has put his name before millions on the small screen. He is a collector and restorer of antique radios and CW keys. He once owned the best collection of CW keys I had ever seen. He writes and writes and writes - he is fascinated by Egyptology. And, his love of Ham radio is shown by his activity on the air. Harvey can often be found chasing DX in the mornings on CW.

Harvey was 12 when he passed the FCC test (the exam was administered by Richard Cotton, W8DX) and became WN8SLR. He remembers that first QSO – with W8SYR was on 80 meters – after many hours of calling CQ. His rig was a H53A. Soon he added a reliable antenna switch and learned to tune the antenna. The world opened to him. The station grew to a Viking II and HQ140. He had the incurable DX bug. The neighbors in Shaker Heights got to know that kid with the Ham transmitter. Harvey soon “dropped the “N” and became W8SLR.

So the years went by and Harvey found himself in Los Angeles with a new call, W6MFK, then N6HL, and a new home that had enough room for a tower and TH3. W6HX did the installation and Harvey was a BIG (well, moderate sized) GUN chasing the DX. After about 20 years as N6HL, Harvey picked up the call W8DX. He tells this story on his webpage.



The photos show his new shack and antenna system. A beautiful installation and a hilltop location in the West San Fernando Valley.

Congratulations Harvey on the 50 years and here's to another 50.



W8DX lists his interests on his web site. They are: Radio, Video, Egyptology, Literature, Astronomy, Photography, Science, Film and Television, Computers, Electronics. Ethics, Humor, Technological Archeology. I collect telegraph instruments and restore old radios and electronic devices. I like to build things and fix things. I edit, write, produce and direct video and film, and I hope to make short videos available on a regular basis. I particularly like old books and antique technical magazines.

DX SPIDER

The following message was received from N6WS:

"I have performed upgrades to version 1.51 build 57.277 on the K6EXO, K6SY, N6WS-6, W6KK, W6RFU-2, and W6TK-6 nodes. The upgrade had several bug fixes and added a few features. One command was added not included in the manual is the SHOW/GROUP command. SH/GROUP lists the chat groups for the last 500 chat messages.

If you want a copy a the new manual please email Harv, K6EXO—harv@scdxc.org and I will send it to you.

SUMMER BASH

The tradition carries on.

How many years has it been that the SCDXC and the SDDXC have met together and eyeballed over burgers and dogs?

It has bee a long running event and this year the Summer Bash, will be on August 8th at W6IRD's QTH in Orange.

Complete information, map etc. can be found on the web at www.scdxc.org.

C Ya There!

FOR SALE

Alpha 78

serial number #8340

Excellent condition, low power input mod, 10m mod, plate current meter shunt for 0-2a scale. Output 1500w+, \$1500

Yaesu FT1000D

All filters, 250kc cw filter in main rx, 600kc cw filter in sub rx Mint condition, includes hand mic, (never used), operating manual AND Technical manual. Original owner, purchased in November 94.

Original factory double box. \$2100

Bob Kogen, W6DN
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rjkdds@earthlink.net

STILL LOOKING

A while back a note was posted that the newsletter wanted pictures QSL's from the WOMLY DXpeditions in Africa. We received a few but want more. Scan and send to harv@scdxc.org

Who We Are

The SCDXC Newsletter is published monthly by the Southern California DX Club and is e-mailed to all club members.

Please notify the editor if you do not receive your newsletter, have a change of address, or have found an error.

Please direct all submissions to the editor.

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